

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01861 271357Z

45

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 OMB-01 /104 W

----- 031596

R 271320Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4927

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, US, AG

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREA AND PUERTO RICO

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MAKES DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. LATTER CLAIMS ALGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS BASED ON PRINCIPLE, NOT ON OPPOSITION TO UNITED STATES. SAYS ALGERIA NOT IN FOREFRONT ON PUERTO RICO, AND FEELS IT HAS ALREADY MODERATED NORTH KOREAN POSITION BY GETTING IT TO JOIN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

2. PUERTO RICO: CALLED ON SECYGEN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY ABDELMALEK BENHABYLES AFTERNOON JULY 26 TO DISCUSS KOREA AND PUERTO RICO, AMONG OTHER MATTERS. GAVE HIM AIDE MEMOIRE ON PUERTO RICO AS TRANSMITTED REFTEL AND SAID I REALIZED HE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH OUR POSITION ON THIS PROBLEM BUT WISHED TO UNDERLINE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF IT. FIRST WAS THAT OUR POLICY HAD BEEN THAT IF PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THAT IT BE GRANTED. PUERTO RICANS HAD HAD SEVERAL OCCASIONS ON WHICH TO EXPRESS THEIR WISHES THIS REGARD AND HAD CHOSEN MAINTAIN SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US. QUESTION WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 01861 271357Z

US AND WE CONSIDERED ANY EFFORT BY OUTSIDERS IN UN

OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO RAISE QUESTION
STATUS OF THIS ISLAND AS OFFENSIVE INTERFERENCE IN
OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. BENHABYLES RESPONDED THAT ALGERIA OF COURSE SUPPORTED
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THERE WAS POLITICAL PARTY IN
PUERTO RICO WHICH CLAIMED TO BE ONE. NEVERTHELESS,
THIS WAS NOT AN ISSUE ALGERIANS WERE PUSHING. HE WAS
SURE I HAD NOTED THAT NO RESPONSIBLE ALGERIAN HAD
SPOKEN OUT IN SUPPORT OF PUERTO RICO INDEPENDENCE.
THAT REFLECTED ALGERIAN ATTITUDE ON QUESTION.

4. KOREA: GAVE BENHABYLES COPY OF
SECRETARY'S JULY 22 REMARKS ON KOREA AS TRANSLATED
STATE 181897. SAID WE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT IN KOREA AND SECRETARY'S REITERATION OF
PROPOSAL FOR QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON SUBJECT WAS
SERIOUS AND SHOULD BE SO TAKEN. WE NOTE FROM LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS NORTH KOREA HAD REJECTED PROPOSAL AND WE
ALSO REALIZED SPECIAL TIES BETWEEN NORTH KOREA
AND ALGERIA AFFECTED ALGERIAN POSITION.
NEVERTHELESS, WE THOUGHT ALGERIANS SHOULD TAKE CLOSE
LOOK AT SECRETARY'S REMARKS AND IN PARTICULAR AT FOUR
POINTS: (A) URGING RESUMPTION OF SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH; (B) STATING OUR READINESS
TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA IF NORTH
KOREA'S ALLIES WOULD DO SAME WITH SOUTH KOREA;
(C) REITERATING OUR SUPPORT FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IN
UN FOR BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO
EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION; (D) AFFIRMING OUR
WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE NEW BASIS FOR ARMISTICE.
SUBJECT OF KOREA HAD COME UP AT NACC MEETING
IN ALGIERS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE RAISED AT COLOMBO.
WE HOPE ALGERIANS WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE ON SIDE
OF MODERATION.

5. BENHABYLES SAID FIRST AND ESSENTIAL FACT TO
REMEMBER WAS THAT KOREA WAS 20 THOUSAND KILOMETERS
AWAY. ALGERIANS HAD NO DIRECT NATIONAL INTEREST IN
THAT PROBLEM AS THEY DID, FOR INSTANCE, IN SPANISH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 01861 271357Z

SAHARA. THEIR POSITION ON KOREA WAS BASED SOLELY ON
PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. FUNDAMENTAL
TO THEM WAS PROPOSITION THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS KOREA
AND VIETNAM WHICH WERE DIVIDED AS RESULT OF WORLD WAR II
AND COLD WAR SHOULD BE REUNIFIED. ALGERIANS HAD NO
INTEREST IN SEEING WAR IN KOREA, NOR WOULD THEY
BLINDLY SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN POSITION. IF NORTH
KOREA TOOK POSITION WHICH ALGERIANS THOUGHT WAS

WRONG ON PRINCIPLE, THEY WOULD OPPOSE IT.

6. BENHABYLES SAID ALGERIANS THOUGHT THEY HAD ALREADY DONE A GREAT DEAL TO MODERATE KOREA'S POSITION BY CONVINCING THEM TO JOIN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND TO WATER DOWN THEIR TIES WITH SOVIET UNION AND CHINA. KOREAN ACCEPTANCE OF NON-ALIGNED STATUS WAS MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AND ALGERIANS THOUGHT IT WAS UP TO US TO EXERT SIMILAR INFLUENCE ON SOUTH KOREANS. WE, AFTER ALL, WERE POWER ON THE GROUND WITH IMMENSE FORCE AND AUTHORITY. ALGERIANS, AS HE NOTED EARLIER, WERE 20 THOUSAND KILOMETERS AWAY AND THEIR INFLUENCE WAS ATTENUATED ACCORDINGLY.

7. I SAID WE HAD INDEED EXERTED OUR INFLUENCE ON SOUTH KOREANS AND WERE ANXIOUS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ABANDON OUR ALLY AND NORTH KOREAN POSITIONS WERE UNREASONABLE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN ONG HISTORY AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST SOUTH KOREA.

8. BENHABYLES THEN WENT INTO LONG PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION OF NATURE ALGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS GROUNDING IN PRINCIPLE. HE SAID US MADE MISTAKE OF THINKING ALGERIANS OPPOSED IT SIMPLY FOR SAKE OF OPPOSING. I SAID THAT BELIEF WAS INDEED RATHER WIDESPREAD IN WASHINGTON, BENHABYLES SAID WE WERE ON OPPOSITE SIDES SO MANY QUESTIONS BECAUSE OUR PRINCIPLES WERE DIFFERENT AND BECAUSE US SO FREQUENTLY FOUND ITSELF SUPPORTING DISCREDITED, CORRUPT AND REACTIONARY REGIMES (NO NAMES MENTIONED). ALGERIAN POSITION IN EACH CASE TAKEN ON MERITS OF THAT CASE AND NOT BECAUSE OF ANY COMPULSION WHATSOEVER TO OPPOSE US. WHEN WE PROPOSED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ALGIER 01861 271357Z

POSITIONS WHICH ACCORDED WITH ALGERIAN PRINCIPLES, THEY WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THEM. WHEN WE TOOK POSITIONS OPPOSED TO THEIR PRINCIPLES, THEY WOULD HAVE TO OPPOSE THEM.

9. COMMENT: BENHABYLES REMARKS ON ALGERIAN DEVOTION TO PRINCIPLE WHICH I HAVE SUMMARIZED VERY BRIEFLY ABOVE DELIVERED WITH MORE THAN USUAL EMPHASIS AND SEEMED TO REFLECT SENSITIVITY ON SUBJECT. I APPRENTLY TOUCHED RAW NERVE WITH REFERENCE TO SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALGERIA AND KOREA.PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER01861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760289-0177
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760719/aaaaaqrz.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREA AND PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, US, AG, KS, RQ, UN
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006